

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 24, 25, 27-29, 31-33, and 36-40 are currently in the application. Claims 25, 26, 30, 34, and 35 have been cancelled. Claims 24, 31, and 33 have been amended. Support for the amendment to the claims is in the specification at pp. 9-13. Applicants will now address the rejections in the Office Action, as follows.

The objections under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

Claims 30 and 31 were objected to in the Office Action. Claim 30 has been cancelled. Claim 31 has been amended as shown.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections on these grounds now be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 24-29 and 30-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103.

The Examiner has rejected claims 24-28 and 30-40 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,555,324 by Waxman et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,597,807 by Watkins et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,581,638 by Givens et al. The Examiner has rejected claim 29 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,555,324 by Waxman et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,597,807 by Watkins et

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al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,581,638 by Givens et al. and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,533,938 by Hurst. Applicants hereby traverse the rejections as to the present claims, as follows.

Claim 24 as amended now recites that a software interface configured for displaying diagnostic information is included in the image processing apparatus. Claim 33 as amended includes a step of displaying diagnostic information. The Office Action stated that Waxman “discloses an operator interface for allowing operator input in processing of said image outputs (column 15, lines 33-37).” However, Waxman only teaches that the interface “allows the user to quickly select the color mapping to be applied.” Waxman therefore does not teach that the interface is configured to display diagnostic information, as recited in the present claims.

More particularly, as described in the present specification at pages 11 and 12, the operator interface is configured to display such diagnostic information, e.g. “scatter plot” pixel distributions. Scatter plot pixel distributions provide diagnostic information important for observing how individual pixel values affect the color fused image. It is also observed in the specification that the pixel values of individual objects in the image that are very different from the other objects in the image may be seen in these scatter plots as groups of pixel values that separate from the main distribution.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection on these grounds now be withdrawn.

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The base claims and the dependent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and the dependent claims also for the additional limitations recited therein. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims presently submitted are allowable for the reasons stated above and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below should further discussion help advance the case to issuance.

Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. George Legg", written over a horizontal line.

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